

Aura Level 2 File Guidelines Standards Process Group RFC Review

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Aura Level 2 File Guidelines



Why a Standard Profile?

Short Answer : Ease Use of Data

- HDF-EOS library allows flexibility - further constraints desirable
 - Data fields which are common across Aura are stored in same way, and with same name
 - Identified attributes which aid data use
- By sharing format of data sets across all Aura instrument teams:
 - Ease development of software
 - Make data sets easier to understand
- Utilize common standard library



Aura Level 2 File Guidelines

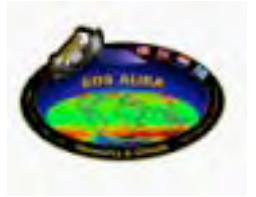


What do Guidelines Encompass?

- Guidelines identify the data library to use (HDF-EOS5 Swath)
- Guidelines describe the data “boxes”
- Each instrument’s fields and dimensions identified
- Identified data overlap between instrument teams and created “standard boxes” for them
- “Box” characteristics require strict adherence
 - Names (spelling/spacing/case of letters)
 - Dimensions and dimension ordering
- Identified attributes
 - Allow more machine automation
 - Add meaning to data (i.e. Units)
- Units
 - Initially only specified box
 - Were able to reach consensus on units, so no conversions required
- Key – Make software-friendly
 - No need to identify grid spacing, units, etc.



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How Do Users Benefit?

- Only need HDF-EOS5 (and HDF5) library to access the Aura data
- Field and attribute names will be the same
- Attributes will allow for program development of product unpacking, plot label generation, unit conversion, etc.
- Data field dimensions will be in same order (if applicable)



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Guidelines Creation Process

- Aura DSWG agreed standard profile was desirable and undertook task
- HIRDLS created a strawman proposal
- Extensive modifications incorporated initially and over time by all instrument teams
- Majority of work via email
 - Named authors – required to respond
 - Silent authors – could respond if desired
 - Document passed to members for editing
- “Controversial” items were brought to individual teams for discussion by Guidelines group member(s)
- Telecons/DSWG breakout meetings held for items which required in-depth discussion
- Major releases of document voted upon at DSWG (formality as teams aware of status)

